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PATENT
BLD920010018US1
0036.0094

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
S.N. Hopper et al.)
Serial No.: 09/981,560)
Filed: October 17, 2001) Art Unit: 2632
For: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND)
PROGRAM FOR MONITORING)
A CONSUMABLE RESOURCE)
USED BY A SYSTEM)

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2002

Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

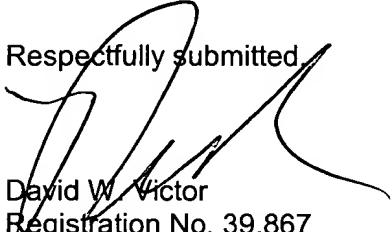
TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed please find Form PTO-1449 listing the attached references which might be deemed material to the examination of the above-identified application. Applicants submit that no fee is needed nor should be charged with the submittal of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) because this IDS is being submitted under 1.97(b) in that the IDS is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits or within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d). Applicants submit that a first Office Action has not been received in the above referenced case.

Nonetheless, should any fee be deemed necessary, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0585. A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for fee processing.

Respectfully submitted,

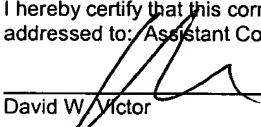

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Dated: December 12, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 12, 2002.


David W. Victor

(Date)

12/12/02